

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN HEALTH CARE



Nursing students described Dean's Research Day as a highlight of their year.

Second Annual Research Day Combines Education and Celebration

By translating research into practice, nurses can save health care dollars and improve quality of care for their patients. That was the theme of Professor Marita Titler's lively keynote presentation at the School of Nursing's second annual Research Day, held April 6 at the Michigan League. Entitled "Discovery to Implementation: Making a Difference," Dr. Titler's address offered examples of implementation science drawn from her own extensive research program as well as studies conducted by various colleagues.

"I'm passionate about patient care," Dr. Titler (Ph.D) declared to a welcoming audience of more than 200 clinical nurses, students, faculty, alums and visitors. "It's what gets me out of bed every day. And if we haven't put knowledge into practice, we haven't done our job."

Dr. Titler, an internationally recognized expert in health services research, translation science and evidence-based practice, was being honored with the Rhetaugh G. Dumas Endowed Chair. The chair is named for the School's former dean, who served from 1981 to 1994.

During the installation ceremony, School of Nursing Dean Kathleen Potempa noted that Dumas had been "not only an esteemed international leader in nursing and health care, but a major influence in the advancement of the School of Nursing to a position of national prominence."

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Ph.D candidate Kelly Brittain shared her research on family dynamics and high blood pressure among African American women.

HEALTHCARE REFORM MATTERS

Dear friends,

This spring I was elected president of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the leading organization for baccalaureate- and higher-degree nursing programs. I was honored to be chosen for this role. But, more importantly, my two-year term enables me to affirm the School's leadership and build valuable new partnerships.

The lawmakers who shape our health policy count on nurses to provide Americans with quality healthcare. Nationwide, the demand for nurses, nurse practitioners, scientists and teachers of nursing is intense, and still growing. With the AACN's 640 member institutions scaling up their admissions to meet these needs, as the Dean of the University of Michigan I will uphold Michigan as a model of great nursing education. And through my interactions with AACN member schools, as well as key foundations and government agencies, I will promote new opportunities for research, collaboration and support.

This newsletter celebrates some of the School of Nursing's recent achievements in nursing education, research and care. I invite you to join me in working toward future successes. Please contact me at (734) 764-7185 or potempa@umich.edu if you would like to get involved.

Thank you for everything you do to keep our School of Nursing among the leaders and best.

Yours truly,

Dean Kathleen Potempa,
Ph.D, RN, FAAN



Nursing Welcomes New Dean's Advisory Council

...Advice...Counsel...Insight... ...Perspective...Advocacy...

Those are the key responsibilities of the ten individuals who have agreed to serve as members of the inaugural Dean's Advisory Council. Among their many duties, this group of accomplished educators, scholars, executives and practitioners will provide guidance on programs and initiatives, cultivate partnerships with corporations, foundations and policymakers, serve as advocates and ambassadors for the School, and assist with fundraising and development.

"It's a privilege to work with such a dynamic and knowledgeable group," says Dean Kathleen Potempa. "The School will benefit significantly from their expertise."

Members of the Dean's Advisory Council include:

Dr. Jane Barnsteiner (Ph.D '84), Professor of Pediatric Nursing, University of Pennsylvania

Brian Connolly (MPH '73), President and CEO, Oakwood Healthcare

Dr. Linda Everett (Ph.D '98), Executive Vice President and Chief Nurse Executive, Clarian Health Partners

Brigadier General Carol Ann Fausone (BSN '75), Assistant Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs, State of Michigan

Derrick Humphries (AB '68), Attorney, Humphries and Partners, LLC

Michael Slubowski, President, Health Networks, Trinity Health

Lisa Vallee-Smith, President, Airfoil Public Relations

Gail Warden (MHA '62), President and CEO Emeritus, Henry Ford Health System

Judith Waterston (BSN '72), President and CEO, New England Sinai Hospital

From left: Miranda Stoddard, Mary Miller, Ross Zoet and Jaclyn Janks, four of the 127 new nurses who earned their BSN degrees.

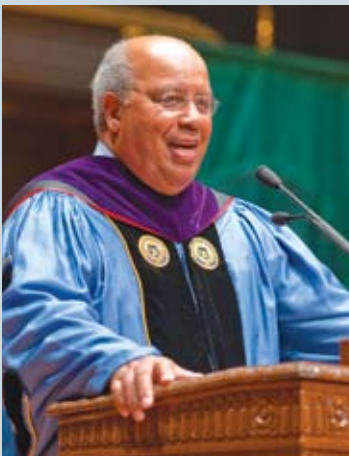
POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE

Spring 2010 Commencement

On Saturday, May 1, hundreds of well-wishers gathered at Hill Auditorium to celebrate the School of Nursing spring convocation. In all, the School awarded 11 Ph.Ds, 66 Master's degrees, and 127 BSN degrees.

One of the highlights of the event was a ceremony honoring 24 new graduates with awards presented by the School of Nursing Alumni Society.

Each year, the Alumni Society also presents merit-based scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students. For some recipients, these awards can mean the difference between completing a degree program or not. Recently, the Society presented 24 scholarships from 5 separate funds, with awards totaling \$55,000.



University Regent S. Martin Taylor welcomed graduates and guests to commencement.



Dean Potempa with Ph.D student Carmen Alvarez, who received the Ella E. McNeil Award for outstanding research and practice in community care.



Soo Hyun Park celebrates her new Ph.D with her family.

Professor Chris Friese: Collaborating on Quality Care

As a freshman at the University of Pennsylvania, Christopher Friese planned to follow up his nursing degree with an MBA and a career in hospital administration. Instead, he met Professor Linda Aiken and spent the next four years assisting with NIH-funded research and writing reports for President Clinton’s Task Force on Health Care Reform.

By 2009, Friese was completing a prestigious four-year postdoc at Harvard’s School of Public Health and considering his options. “I was blessed with good choices,” he notes. “But only Michigan offered me access to so many disciplines and collaborators on one campus. Also, the leadership of the Comprehensive Cancer Center recognized the importance of quality of



care research in oncology, which is the focus of my work. Those two factors made my decision very easy.”

These days, Assistant Professor of Nursing Friese (RN, Ph.D, AOCN) divides his time among a multitude of projects. As a member of the Cancer Center’s Quality of Life Program, he helps develop new research studies that examine quality of care issues for patients and caregivers. His other intellectual home is the Cancer Surveillance and Outcomes Research Team, where he works with colleagues on research related to cancer survival outcomes

and quality of care. He also makes time for clinical practice, something he finds “very rewarding, because it allows me to interact with patients and their caregivers.”

Visit Chris Friese’s faculty page at www.nursing.umich.edu/faculty/friese_christopher.html

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Dr. Titler’s keynote capped a series of research presentations by School of Nursing faculty addressing topics that ranged from hypothalamic pain modulation to new MRI technology. Participants also had the opportunity to view 40 poster presentations submitted by faculty and student researchers.



Professors Susan Pressler and Antonia Villaruel (center and right) helped colleague Maria Titler prepare for her keynote.

Next year’s event will be enhanced by the Suzanne H. Brouse Lectureship. Endowed by a \$50,000 gift from the longtime educator and treasurer of the School’s Alumni Society Board of Governors, the lectureship will bring nationally recognized nursing scholars to U-M as part of the annual Dean’s Research Day.

**School of Nursing
Office of Development
and External Relations**



Mary Stahl, director
mastahl@umich.edu

Ed Maki-Schramm, assistant director
eschramm@umich.edu

Maryann Fardig, secretary
mfardig@umich.edu

Office of Development and External Relations
Suite 1154

University of Michigan • School of Nursing Building
400 North Ingalls • Ann Arbor, MI 48109-5482
Phone: (734) 763-9710 • Fax: (734) 615-5696
E-mail: nursingalum@umich.edu

**And remember to visit us on the web at
www.nursing.umich.edu**

THE WRITE STUFF

Journal's special issue highlights Michigan's strength in translational research

For 25 years, academic and clinical nurses around the world have subscribed to *Research and Theory for Nursing Practice*, a highly regarded journal produced by the School of Nursing—and one of very few to present both theoretical and empirical research. This past February, readers had an opportunity to revisit the School's 2009 Dean's Lecture and Research Day when the journal published a special issue featuring presentations from that event.

Entitled "Building Translation Science With Interdisciplinary Research," the winter 2010 edition was the product of a collaboration between Nursing and the Michigan Center for Health Intervention (MICHIN), an NIH-funded center of excellence located within the School.

"This school-wide effort was bolstered and supported by the Center," says Professor of Nursing Donna L. Algase, who edits the journal.

"Because the focus of MICHIN is to help nurse-scientists move their work through research and testing and eventually into the community, there was a natural coalescing around the topic of translational research, which was the theme of last year's Research Day."

Guest editing the special issue were Professor Susan J. Pressler, chair of Research Day, and Carolyn M. Sampselle (Ph.D '85), the Carolyn K. Davis Collegiate Professor of Nursing, associate dean for research and director of MICHIN.



(L to R): Professors Donna L. Algase (Ph.D, RN, FAAN, FGSA), Carolyn Sampselle (Ph.D, RNC, FAAN) and Susan J. Pressler (RN, DNS, FAAN, FAHA).

Visit *Research and Theory for Nursing Practice* at www.ingentaconnect.com/content/springer/rtnp.

Learn about MICHIN at www.nursing.umich.edu/research/michin.



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From the Class of 1960 to the Nurses of Tomorrow...

A LEGACY GIFT FOR GRADUATE NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS

As their 50th reunion approaches, the class of 1960 is planning to mark the occasion by presenting the School with a \$25,000 gift earmarked for graduate nursing scholarships. The group has raised \$10,000 of that amount to date. Leading the effort is Sharleen Eisenbeiser (BSN '60), who also represents Nursing on the University-wide Reunion Committee. To make a contribution or for details about the upcoming reunion, visit nursing.umich.edu/gateway/alumni_news/reunion.html.

Members of the Class of 1960 Reunion Committee gathered recently at alumna Mary Lindquist's shop, the Quilting Season.

Front row (L to R): Marcia Van Fossen, Jan Gowans, Shar Eisenbeiser Back row: Vicki Sarah, Carol Kahaian, Marlene Cunningham, Mary Lindquist Not pictured: Eleanor Bailey, Elyse Bragg, Carole Hancher Briggs.



KUDOS Faculty and Alumni News



In the days and months following January's devastating earthquake, hundreds of Haitians have flocked to the Faculty of Nursing Science of the Episcopal University of Haiti, co-founded by U-M Associate Professor Emeritus of Nursing **Ruth Barnard**.

At its 3rd annual Hope for Haiti Ball in February, the U-M Student Nurses' Association raised \$6244 to support students at the Haitian school, which offers the country's only four-year baccalaureate nursing degree. To learn more about the university and Hope for Haiti, go to www.ns.umich.edu/htdocs/releases/story.php?id=7519.



In February and March, Assistant Professor **Jody Lori** (BSN '80, MSN '92) spent three weeks working in rural Liberian hospitals and clinics with graduate students **Elikem Amable**, **Sarah Gilbertson**, and **Kate Guzman**. Professor Lori led a similar clinical

practice trip to Liberia in March of 2009, accompanied by second-career nursing students **Jennifer Huber**, **Grace Savercool**, **Karl Lopata**, **Gretchen Ruczynski**, **Ashley Benedict**, and **Laura Mason**. View a narrated slideshow of their experiences at www.ns.umich.edu/podcast/video.php?id=1196.



Linda Joyce Hopper Cook (BSN '72) has completed her Ph.D. at the University of Alberta focusing on the impact of public policy on informal caregivers.



Last summer, **Abby Rubenstein** (BSN '80) and her 19-year-old son, Jacob, traveled to Uganda where they spent ten days delivering care to the Kalungi Medical Center and the Jireh Mountain Children's Orphanage. Learn more about the Center and Orphanage at www.US2Uganda4Life.org.

Dr. Amanda Niskar (BSN '93) served as a public health analyst at the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services and is now running her own senior public health consultancy.



Chief Nursing Officer of Oakwood Healthcare System **Barbara Medvec** (BSN '77, Vice President of the School of Nursing Alumni Society Board of Governors) has been awarded the Most ABLE Award by Operation A.B.L.E. of Michigan for her professional and civic accomplishments.

**There's always plenty of fresh news
about U-M Nursing at
www.nursing.umich.edu.**